

of the house commenced. Having visited Niua and Erromanga, they returned to Aneiteum.

At this time Mr. M's. health was delicate, but it seemed to improve by residence on shore. A medical gentleman on board one of H. M. Ships, having carefully examined his case, earnestly recommended rest and attention to his health for a time, and gave it as his opinion, that in this way he might yet become a vigorous man. The missionaries were therefore anxious that he should remain for a time on Aneiteum before undertaking the toils of a new mission. But Mr. M's. ardent spirit could scarcely brook any delay in entering upon his work, while in the general spirit of the consumptive he could not perceive his danger and was unwilling to hear it spoken of, so that when Messrs. Paton and Copeland arrived two or three weeks after, arrangements were made for the location of Mr. M. with them upon Tanna, though in consequence of the state of his health, the other missionaries only assented to the step in compliance with this own urgent wishes.

After consultation it was resolved, that the two former should be stationed at Port Resolution, and that Mr. M. should take up a new station on the south side of the island, about 14 miles distant, called Umairarekar. The frame and materials of a house were prepared on Aneiteum, and in October they all sailed for their destination accompanied by Mr. Geddie. They were all landed and commenced operations under apparently favourable circumstances. Mr. M's. station had the disadvantage of being very inaccessible, but for the same reason, the people had been less exposed to the evil influences of foreigners, and were therefore likely to be less savage in their conduct and more friendly to missionaries. Mr. Geddie thus wrote regarding Mr. M's. settlement, "A large number of natives collected on the shore to see us. The excitement caused by our arrival was so great, that it was some hours before the natives were sufficiently composed to carry the luggage to the house which was some distance off. Mrs. Matheson was an object of great curiosity to the natives, as few of them had ever seen a white

woman before. The women at first were afraid, and some of them ran off when she approached them, but their confidence was soon gained, and they were delighted with her. As the mission house was not habitable, we took up our abode in a small grass house. I remained with Mr. and Mrs. M. for nine days, during which time we saw many natives. We observed a marked difference between those among whom the teachers resided and strangers from a distance, the latter being very savage and wild in their appearance. They examined with great curiosity every thing that came under their notice, and were sometimes intrusive. It is due, however, to the natives to say, that they did not steal anything, though they had much in their power. They said if we had not been missionaries, every thing belonging to us would have been stolen. During the stay at Umairarekar I worked at Mr. Matheson's house along with a number of Aneiteum natives, and it was habitable before we left. It is a building 40x15 feet, and contains three rooms. The site is very pretty, and there is a spring of fine water on the beach before the door, and a running stream at a short distance. The island of Aneiteum is visible from the house, and in clear weather it looks very near. The chief of the district in which Mr. M. resides is very friendly. The morning that I left he and some others came to me and said that we must not be uneasy about Mr. and Mrs. Matheson, as nobody would be allowed to molest or injure them."

Mr. Matheson's letters were in a similar strain. In his first letter from the island he says, "They (the natives) appeared very much pleased when we landed, with the idea of having a missionary coming to live among them—the chiefs especially, several of whom are very kind and often send us presents of food. The chief on whose land we are living (viz. Kati) is still a heathen man; but he seems delighted that the house was built upon his land, and he calls us his own missionaries. He comes about the house very often, and appears willing to do every thing to promote our comfort and safety. Yalisi, who appears to be the oldest chief living near us, has professed a desire for teachers